GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7121
ANSWERED ON:18.05.2012
NUTRITIONAL CONTENTS OF MEALS IN AWCS
Biju Shri P. K.

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the nutrition levels of the current meals offered through Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) is sufficient to meet nutritional needs of children;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken/to be taken by the Government to increase the nutritional contents of meals for children?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

(a) to (c): Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, implemented by the State Government / UT Administrations. It provides a package of services including supplementary nutrition to children below six years of age, pregnant and lactating mothers. Supplementary nutrition under the ICDS is primarily designed to bridge the gap between the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) and the Average Dietary Intake (ADI) and is not a substitute to any meals to be given to children at home. Beneficiaries under the ICDS are required to be provided with supplementary nutrition in accordance with Guidelines issued by Government of India on 24.02.2009 .Considering gaps in RDA and ADI, the supplementary nutrition norms are sufficient for nutritional needs of children. The type of the food being provided to the beneficiaries at AWCs and the revised nutritional norms and cost norms for supplementary nutrition are given in Annexure I &II.